

Dural Room .

21 MAR 1942
PURCHASED



BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXLI.

The four-hundred-and-thirty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, February 21, 1942, at 2 P.M.

Chairman : Mr. B. W. TUCKER.

Members present :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; F. J. F. BARRINGTON ; A. EZRA ; Miss E. M. GODMAN ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; T. H. NEWMAN ; W. L. SCLATER ; Dr. A. LANDS-BOROUGH THOMSON ; Mrs. H. W. BOYD WATT ; H. WHISTLER.

Guests of the Club.—Miss L. P. GRANT ; D. LACK.

Members, 15 ; Guests 2 ; Total, 17.

No Meeting of the Club took place in January.

Length of Life in Robins.

Mr. DAVID LACK gave an interesting talk upon the longevity of wild Robins ; this was followed by a discussion, in which several members took part.

New Races of Slaty Flycatcher, Bracken-Warbler, and Grey-headed Negro-Finch from Tanganyika Territory.

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the following three new races for exhibition :—

Dioptornis fischeri ufipæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Dioptornis fischeri fischeri* Reichenow in having a complete white ring round the eye, but

slate colour above is paler, very close to *Dioptrornis fischeri nyikensis* Shelley, but has the chin, throat and belly much whiter than either *D. f. fischeri* or *D. f. nyikensis*.

Distribution.—Ufipa Plateau, south-western Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Mbisi Forest Sumbawanga, Ufipa Plateau 8000 feet, south-western Tanganyika Territory, June 16, 1941; collected for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5464.

Measurements of type.—Wing 93, culmen from base 19, tail 79, tarsus 27 mm.

Remarks.—An adult female collected at the same place on June 5, 1941 (collector's no. 5460), has a wing of 90 mm.

In the Benson collection is a male from Vipya Plateau (collector's no. 1140) which still retains young markings. This specimen agrees in the whiteness of the chin to belly with this new race, but this is the only specimen from Nyasaland showing this character.

***Bradypterus alfredi kungwensis*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Similar to *Bradypterus alfredi albicrissalis* Neumann, but upper side dark olivaceous brown, not the warm russet colour of *B. a. albicrissalis*; flanks darker and under tail-coverts with less white edging.

Distribution.—Bamboo areas of Kungwe Mt., 7600 feet, western Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Bamboos above Ujamba, Kungwe Mt., at 7600 feet, western Tanganyika Territory. August 18, 1941; collected for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5655.

Measurements of type.—Wing 58, culmen from base 17, tail 53, tarsus 24 mm.

Remarks.—A perfect female and two other rather badly shot specimens agree with this male. I have been unable to examine specimens of *B. a. alfredi* Hartlaub, of which, apparently, only the type is known; but judging by the description of *B. a. albicrissalis*, the type of which is in the British Museum, the upper parts do not differ.

This new race is from a locality some 430 miles due south of the locality of *B. a. albicrissalis*, and *B. a. alfredi* is found some 100 to 200 miles due north of *B. a. albicrissalis*.

***Nigrita canicapilla candida*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from all other races of the species in that the entire hind crown, nape and upper edge of the mantle are nearly white, as pale as the rump, and well defined from the grey of the back.

Distribution.—Forest at Ujamba, 6700 feet, Kungwe Mt., Kigoma District, Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Ujamba Kungwe Mt., August 16, 1941; collected by Salemin Asumani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5657.

Measurements of type.—Wing 70, culmen 12, tail 50, tarsus 20 mm.

**A new Race of Blue Swallow from
Tanganyika Territory.**

Captain C. H. B. GRANT and Major C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED exhibited and described the following new race:—

On *Hirundo atrocærulea* Sundevall: with the description of a new race.

Lynes, in J. f. O. 1934, p. 99, invites attention to the possibility of there being two races of this Swallow, one breeding in South Africa and migrating northwards in the non-breeding season, and the other a resident race in Tanganyika Territory and Nyasaland.

In the light of these remarks we have carefully examined the thirty-two specimens in the British Museum collection, including the type of *Hirundo christyi**, Bull. B. O. C. xvi.

* This type is in the British Museum (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1906.1.21.17), and the collector's label bears "No. 54, male, 11. ix. 1905, Kungu Hill, Mabira Forest, Chagwe," whereas in the Bull. B. O. C. xvi. 1906, p. 86, the date is given as 7. viii. 1905. This is a serious discrepancy for the designation of a type. At the back of the collector's label, in Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's handwriting, is "*Hirundo christyi* Sharpe Type", which proves that this specimen is the one described by Sharpe, and that therefore the day and month given in the original description are inaccurate. This specimen is an adult in fresh dress, and is the steely-blue *H. atrocærulea atrocærulea*.